

**Figure 1**

## TORRANCE

### 5 arrested in credit fraud ring

The Secret Service arrested five people — including a Torrance man — in connection with a credit card duplication scheme, authorities said.

The man was arrested about noon Friday at a Torrance house in the 2800 block of Knode Street. He was led away in handcuffs, according to a witness.

The arrests throughout the Los Angeles area were part of an ongoing investigation into restaurant workers who duplicate credit cards used by customers, said assistant special agent Elmer Kanutson.

The Secret Service made the arrest because the agency is in charge of protecting the nation's financial institutions, Kanutson said.

The agency did not want to identify the suspect because the investigation was continuing.

"It's an ongoing case and we'd like to say as little as possible," Kanutson said.

Figure 2



## Figure 3

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a central system 10. The central system 10 includes a central system processor 430 and central system storage devices 426. The central system storage devices 426 include a customer database 438, a merchant database 440, a transaction database 442, and a central system operating system 402. The customer database 438 includes a customer ID (telephone number) 450, a card personal identification number (CPIN) 456, a bank account/bankcard data 458, and an e-mail address 460. The merchant database 440 includes a merchant number 442, a merchant name 444, a merchant identifier 448, a terminal URL 446, and an e-mail address 450. The transaction database 442 includes a transaction reference 340, a date/time 342, a merchant number 442, an authorization amount 334, a tip amount 332, a table number 330, a server number 352, and a customer ID 354. The central system operating system 402 includes a central system program 404, a security function 406, a payment processing function 408, a customer interface function 410, a merchant interface function 412, and an interface function 414.

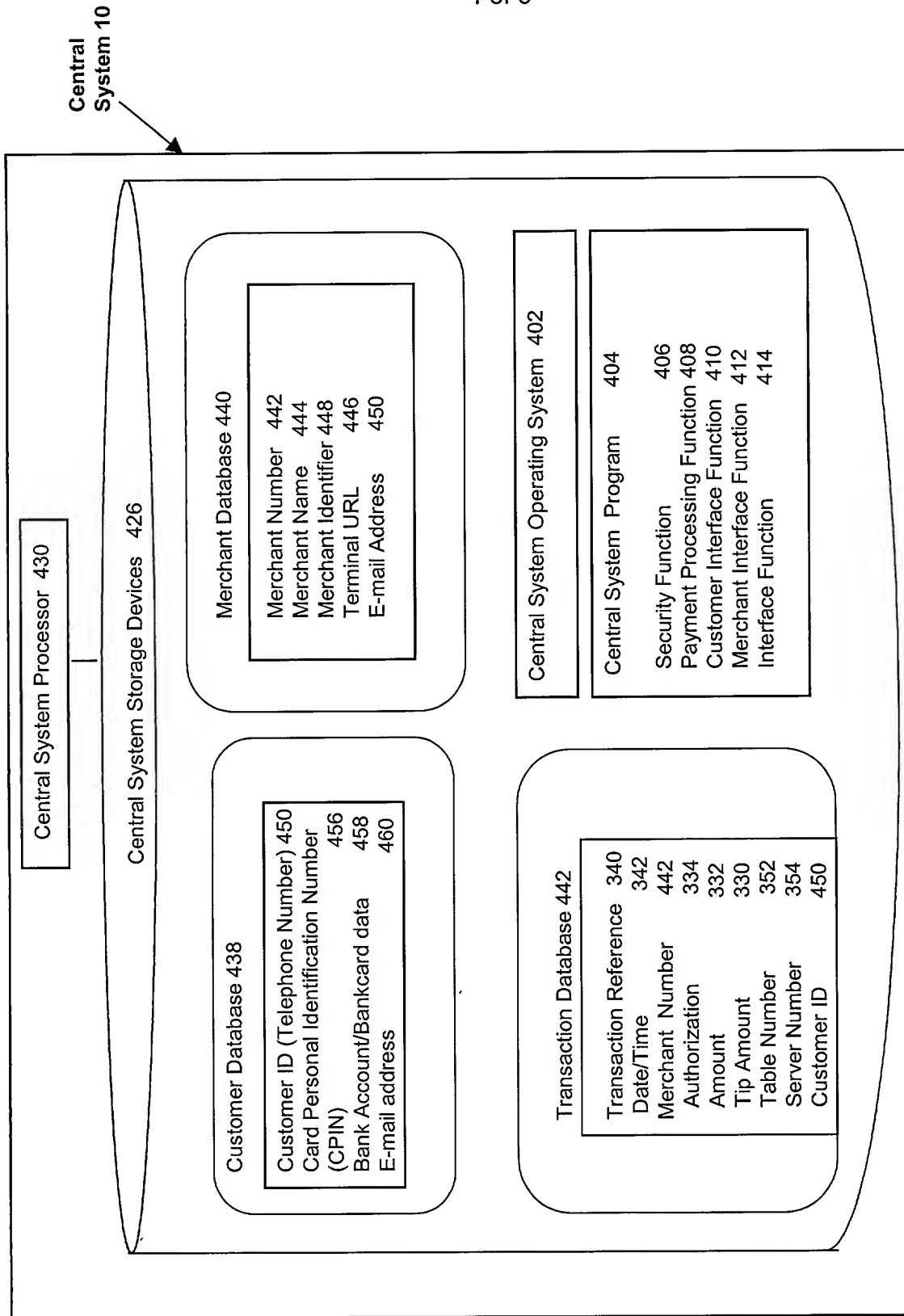


Figure 4

